

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO COMCOGARD ACTEUR LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166076

LIMDIS

FOL REPEAT OSLO 3242 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF CNO
DTD 13 JUL.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3242

LIMDIS

SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA - COL NORMAN WALKER AND OASD/PA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NO, ETEL, SV

SUBJECT: GON'S NEXT MOVE ON LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM

REF: OSLO 3227

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY HOLST CALLED CHARGE
IN WAKE OF LESS-THAN-HELPFUL "DAGBLADET" JULY 12 ARTICLE ON
LORAN-C (REFTEL) TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS GON AND EMBASSY
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MIGHT TAKE TO CONTAIN BURGEONING CLARINET PILGRIM STORY AND TO
PLACE ENTIRE LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM SUBJECT INTO PROPER
PERSPECTIVE. EMBASSY PRESENTS OUR VIEWS BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. HOLST EMPHASIZED TO CHARGE IMPORTANCE HIGHEST LEVELS OF
NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO ANTICIPATING AND CONFRONTING
POSSIBLE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF INNUENDOS CONTAINED IN MORE

IRRESPONSIBLE LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM STORIES. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT GON WAS BEING INCREASINGLY DRIVEN BY THE ISSUE AS PRESENTED IN THE FAR LEFTIST PRESS. THE GON NEEDED TO GET BACK ON TOP OF THE ISSUE AND HE FELT THAT THE BEST NEXT STEP WOULD BE FOR EITHER GON OR USG TO MAKE PUBLIC WHATEVER INFORMATION WE COULD ABOUT CLARINET PILGRIM. THIS WOULD HELP DEFUSE LEFTIST IMPLICATIONS THAT GON AND USG WERE COVERING UP INFORMATION ABOUT CLARINET PILGRIM AND LORAN-C. HOLST NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER WAS LOSING PATIENCE WITH ENTIRE SERIES OF STORIES AND HOLST WAS ENCOURAGING HIM TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE BROADER SUBJECT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NORWAY'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO, POSSIBLY NEXT WEEK.

3. HOLST SAID HE HAD BEEN SENT AN UNDATED APPARENTLY UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION SHEET ON LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM BY THE EMBASSY ABOUT 18 MONTHS AGO. HE ASKED IF THE USG WOULD AGREE TO THE RELEASE OF THE INFORMATION SHEET, TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS: (NOTE: WE ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION SHEET HERE, BUT BELIEVE IT MAY HAVE COME TO US FROM THE US COAST GUARD REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON. IT HAS NO CLASSIFICATION INDICATORS ON IT, AND HOLST NOTED THAT WHEN HE RECEIVED IT HE WAS TOLD IT WAS UNCLASSIFIED).

BEGIN TEXT:

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SUPERIMPOSING DATA COMMUNICATIONS ON THE LORAN-C EMISSIONS

TRANSMITTING STATIONS OF THE LORAN-C RADIONAVIGATION SYSTEM ARE NOW OPERATING IN ICELAND (SANDUR), NORWAY (BO AND JAN MAYEN), DENMARK (EJDE, FAROE IS.), AND GERMANY (SYLT). THE STATIONS ALL OPERATE ON THE FREQUENCY 100 KHZ, WITH A COMPLEX 20P9 EMISSION, PURSUANT TO NO. 166 OF THE ITU RADIO REGULATIONS. ASTERISK

CURRENTLY, THE COMPLEX MODULATION APPLIED TO THE EMISSIONS FROM THE STATIONS IS ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF IDENTIFICATION AND REDUCTION OF SKY-WAVE INTERFERENCE PROBLEMS. THE STATIONS ARE NOW USED ONLY FOR NAVIGATIONAL AND TIME DISTRIBUTION OR SYNCHRONIZATION PURPOSES.

A SYSTEM, NOW GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS CLARINET PILGRIM, HAS BEEN DEVELOPED WHICH SUPERIMPOSES U.S. NAVY FLEET BROADCASTS ON THE LORAN-C PULSE TRANSMISSIONS. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE RELIABLE NAVY COMMUNICATIONS IN AREAS COVERED BY LORAN-C. THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THIS CAPABILITY WITH MINIMAL EFFECT ON THE NAVIGATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LORAN-C SYSTEM. CLARINET PILGRIM HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN THE NORTHWEST PACIFIC LORAN-C CHAIN, WHERE IT HAS BEEN IN SERVICE ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS FOR OVER FOUR (4) YEARS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF INTERFERENCE TO USE OF THE SYSTEM FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES. LIKEWISE, THERE

HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ADDITIONAL INTERFERENCE TO OTHER SERVICES RESULTING FROM THE ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS MODULATION.

CLARINET PILGRIM IS NOW URGENTLY REQUIRED IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AREA BECAUSE EXISTING NAVY FLEET BROADCAST TRANSMITTERS DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH POWER OR CAPACITY TO COVER ALL OCEAN AREAS THAT SHIPS NORMALLY TRANSIT. BY USING CERTAIN OF THE EXISTING LORAN-C TRANSMITTING STATIONS FOR FLEET RELAY TRANSMISSIONS, THERE WILL BE NO REQUIREMENT TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL LOW FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS AND TO CONSTRUCT ADDITIONAL HIGH POWER TRANSMITTING FACILITIES.

DUAL USE OF THE LORAN-C EMISSIONS (I.E., NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATIONS) IS AN ECONOMICAL USE OF THE RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM. IT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ALLOCATION PROVISIONS FOR THE FREQUENCY BAND 90-110 KHZ. THE MODULATION
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WILL BE SO APPLIED AS TO NOT SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE THE RADIATED BANDWIDTH OF THE SIGNAL. THE OBLIGATION TO NOT CAUSE HARMFUL INTERFERENCE TO OTHER SERVICES IN THE SAME, OR ADJACENT, FREQUENCY BANDS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

INITIALLY, THE COMMUNICATIONS WOULD BE FOR FLEET BROADCAST PURPOSES; LATER, IF FOUND TO BE DESIRABLE AND TECHNICALLY AND OPERATIONALLY FEASIBLE, ADDITIONAL CHANNELS MIGHT BE ADDED FOR INTER-STATION COMMUNICATIONS AND/OR FOR OTHER OFFICIALS COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS.

CLARINET PILGRIM DOES NOT REQUIRE INCREASED POWER, NEW BUILDINGS, OR NEW ANTENNAS. THE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED IS RELATIVELY SMALL AND READILY FITS WITHIN EXISTING LORAN STATIONS.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OPERATION OF THESE STATIONS PURSUANT TO NO. 166 OF THE RADIO REGULATIONS HAVE INVOLVED ICELAND, NORWAY, DENMARK, GERMANY, UNITED KINGDOM, SWEDEN, FINLAND, BELGIUM, NETHERLAND, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, ITALY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND AUSTRIA. END TEXT.

4. HOLST STATED THAT IF THE USG COULD NOT PERMIT PUBLICATION OF THIS PARTICULAR INFORMATION, PERHAPS WE COULD MAKE PUBLIC OTHER FACTS ABOUT CLARINET PILGRIM. HE ASSURED CHARGE THAT GON WOULD FULLY ABIDE BY WHATEVER USG DECIDED.

5. ON THE TACTICS OF PUBLICIZING CLARINET PILGRIM INFORMATION, HOLST DID NOT HAVE A PREFERENCE AS TO WHETHER USG OR GON SHOULD MAKE INFO PUBLIC. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO COORDINATE THE RELEASE BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AND TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT TO THE PUBLIC THAT SUCH COORDINATION HAD TAKEN PLACE.

6. ON A SECOND BUT RELATED SUBJECT, HOLST SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE GON TO HEAR SOON FROM THE USG WHEN OUR GOVERNMENT
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EXPECTS TO HAVE AN ANSWER FROM THE GON ON OUR REQUEST TO INSTALL CLARINET PILGRIM. HOLST NOTED THAT WITH ELECTIONS COMING UP, PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT WERE RELUCTANT TO PUT ISSUES LIKE CLARINET PILGRIM ON AN ALREADY-FULL AGENDA. THE CHARGE NOTED THAT HE WAS CERTAIN CONCERNED US AGENCIES WERE SENSITIVE TO THE TIMING PROBLEMS FACING THE GON AND AGREED TO SEEK A MORE CONCRETE ANSWER WHICH HOLST COULD USE WITHIN THE GON.

7. AS A FINAL ISSUE, HOLST SAID THAT OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD BEGIN THINKING ABOUT HOW THE USG WOULD REACT IF THE GON ASKED US POINT BLANK WHETHER CLARINET PILGRIM WOULD HAVE AS ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION COMMUNICATIONS WITH SSBNS. HOLST SAID HE WAS NOT RAISING THIS QUESTION OFFICALLY NOW, BUT ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED THE GON WOULD WHEN THE TIME ARRIVED FOR A GON DECISION ON CLARINET PILGRIM. HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE USG ANSWER WOULD INFLUENCE THE GON'S DECISION BUT REITERATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ASKED SOONER OR LATER ABOUT THIS ISSUE AND WOULD HAVE TO BE IN A POSITION TO RESPOND. CHARGE NOTED WE WOULD THINK ABOUT HIS QUESTION.

8. COMMENT: THE LEFTIST PRESS DOES NOT HAVE AS ITS GOAL LORAN-C OR EVEN CLARINET PILGRIM IT IS AIMING TO IMPLY THAT THESE SYSTEMS SOMEHOW VIOLATE NORWAY'S BASE POLICY OR NUCLEAR POLICY OR BOTH, AND THEREBY CALL INTO QUESTION THE WHOLE OF NORWAY'S SECURITY POLICY AND NATO MEMBERSHIP. WE AGREE WITH HOLST THAT THE GON HAS ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE PUT ON THE DEFENSIVE TO DATE AND HAS BEEN DRIVEN BY THE LEFTIST TO DEBATE THE FINE POINTS OF LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM WITHOUT ADDRESSING THE LARGER ISSUE OF NORWAY'S SECURITY POLICY. WE AGREE WITH HOLST THAT THE BEST WAY TO STAUNCH THE TIDE IS WITH A HIGH-LEVEL GON STATEMENT ALONG LINES HE INDICATED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE HIM AND OTHER GON OFFICIALS IN THAT DIRECTION AS APPROPRIATE.

9. MEANWHILE, THE USG SHOULD PLAY A SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN THE
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GON PLANS TO TAME DOWN THE LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM STORY. WE BELIEVE THAT PUBLICATION OF A SHORT FACT SHEET TO BE A USEFUL PROPOSAL, THOUGH WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PUT OUT BY THE GON, PROBABLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENT MENTIONED ABOVE.

10. FINALLY, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT RESURFACING LORAN-C/

CLARINET PILGRIM IN PARLIAMENT TWO MONTHS BEFORE ELECTIONS MAKES
IT EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT WE COULD FORCE AN EARLY POSITIVE
DECISION FROM THE GON ON THE SUBJECT EVEN IF WE WANTED TO.
WE HAVE WAITED THIS LONG FOR AN ANSWER AND WOULD LOSE LITTLE OR
NOTHING
BY WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS.
THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO TELL HOLST WE DO NOT CONSIDER A 1977
DECISION NECESSARY.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: A. INDICATION ON WHETHER TEXT OF
FACT SHEET IN PARA 3 CAN BE MADE PUBLIC. IF SO, DOES USG
OBJECT TO GON MAKING IT PUBLIC? IF NOT, WHAT INFORMATION CAN
WE OR GON MAKE PUBLIC ON CLARINET PILGRIM? PLEASE ADVISE
ASAP. B. AUTHORITY TO TELL GON THAT USG FEELS NO
SPECIAL URGENCY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CLARINET PILGRIM AND
THAT A GON DECISION IN FY 78 IS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE.
BREMER

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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